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order of the evangelists, especially as consistently with this Mr. Wright could certainly have devised some way of distinguishing the six sources which he thinks he can discern.

As to Mr. Wright's theory itself, this was expounded some years ago in his book on the *Composition of the Gospels* (1890), and is known to students of the synoptic problem. Its two features, the division of the material into the six sources or classes of sources, and the proposition that these sources as used by the evangelists were mainly oral—catechetical cycles—can be considered quite separately. For the oral character of the sources something is to be said. Apparently we need a still more careful study of the literary method of the first century than has yet been made before we shall have the basis for a final decision of this question.

The other question—the division into sources—is not intrinsically less difficult, but it does seem somewhat less difficult to say whether Mr. Wright's analysis will stand. To this reviewer, at least, it seems certain that it will not. After he leaves the safe ground of Mark's gospel, which constitutes his first source, he proceeds in entirely too mechanical and artificial a fashion, distinguishing his sources quite too much by some mere rule of thumb, such as the presence of the material in one or a certain two of the evangelists, and with too little regard for internal characteristics. He allows, also, more weight than is just to "the great principle which he has made his loadstar," but which he himself admits breaks down in the presence of the facts, viz., that "an evangelist would omit nothing" contained in his sources.

We are glad to add this book to our apparatus for the study of the synoptic problem. No book published in this country or England is so useful for the purpose if we except Rushbrooke's *Synopticon*, the size and costliness of which are a hindrance to its general use. But we wish Mr. Wright had followed more nearly in the footsteps of Huck, only adding some of the mechanical features of this book. As respects the discrimination of the sources we are constrained to believe his work will require revision.

E. D. B.

The Search-Light of St. Hippolytus. By PARKE P. FLOURNOY.
Chicago: F. H. Revell Co. 1896. Pp. 250. Price \$1.

Questions pertaining to the early church, its organization, the authenticity of the Scriptures, the attacks of infidelity and the argu-

ments to meet them, are of perennial and surpassing interest to the average thoughtful person as well as to the critical scholar and the trained thinker. Fortunately for such people there are many books issuing from the press, cheap, fairly accurate, and attractive in style. The book before us is of this class.

Hippolytus' *Philosophoumena; or Refutation of all Heresies*, was discovered in 1842, and published in 1851. It has settled in the negative the question of an infallible papacy. "And not until that discovery and others still more recent, such as Tatian's *Diatessaron* (published in 1888) and the ancient Syriac version of the gospels (found at Mt. Sinai in 1892), was it known how irresistible was the evidence of the genuineness of the New Testament Scriptures."

Provided with these search-lights the author proceeds to an examination of the arguments against Christianity as put forth by Baur, Renan, and others.

Many of his criticisms are acute and telling. Many passages are calculated to awaken the thoughtful attention of Christian people everywhere. For instance, there is one on page 162, the pertness and truthfulness of which cannot be questioned: "The Hegelian philosophy doubtless had much to do with bringing Renan to that atheistic pantheism which took away all reverence and sense of duty, along with all solemnity, from his mind. And that philosophy is robbing many of their faith now, especially in our country and Great Britain. Many of the most attractive teachers are instilling it into receptive minds among college and university students."

The author has a good case and argues it strongly, but unfortunately betrays too often a partisan animus that weakens the effect of his book and will lessen its influence upon the minds of many of those whom he most wishes to influence.

J. W. M.

Geographie des alten Palästina. Von DR. F. BUHL. Freiburg i. B. und Leipzig: Akademische Verlagsbuchhandlung von J. C. B. Mohr. 1896. 8vo, pp. x + 300. M. 6.60.

This volume is the tenth in the series of theological outlines which has become so widely known through Professor Harnack's *Dogmengeschichte*, Professor Cornill's *Alttestamentliche Einleitung*, and Benzinger's *Hebräische Archäologie*. As might be expected from the author's reputation the new "outline" is thorough and practical. There is no